Message Text

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10

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 EUR-12 AID-05 MC-02

ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 IGA-02 EB-07

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R 310148Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, TS

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF MAP MINESWEEPERS

REF; A. SECDEF 3678 DTG 16190Z APR 74 (NOTAL)
B. SECDEF 5314 DTG 051925Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

C. CHMAAG MSG DTG 210941Z JULY 76

D. TUNIS 5179

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. WE AND DOD AGREE WITH MERITS OF ASSISTING GOT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING ITS NAVAL REQUIREMENTS BY ACQUISITION OF FRENCH-

OPERATED MINESWEEPER. HOWEVER, CURRENT US STATUTES AND REGULATIONS MAKE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFERS OF MAP-ORIGIN DEFENSE ARTICLES COMPLICATED AND THEREFORE ARE NOT ENCOURAGED. USG POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE TRANSFERRING PARTY TO PURCHASE REVERSIONARY RIGHTS UNDER FMS SO THAT ARTICLES CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD-PARTIES IN SAME WAY AS OTHER FMS-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT, SUBJECT TO USG APPROVAL, I.E. AFTER CONGRESS IS NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE AND FURTHER TRANSFER

ASSURANCES ARE RECEIVED FROM PROPOSED RECIPIENT. ABOVE PROCEDURE APPLICABLE TO ANY AND ALL TRANSFERS, INCLUDING LOANS. ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS FOR TRANSFERRING PARTY TO RETURN THE ARTICLES TO THE USG FOR PROVISION TO PROPOSED RECIPIENT UNDER MAP REDISTRIBUTABLE PROCEDURES. LATTER CASE DOES NOT OF COURSE CONSTITUTE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER BUT REDISTRIBUTION BY USG DIRECTLY.

- 2. THE CURRENT PRICE FOR THE REVERSIONARY RIGHTS TO THE MAP-PROVIDED COASTAL MINESWEEPERS LISTED IN PARA 1 OF REF C IS \$35,000.00 EACH. SHOULD THE GOF WISH TO PURCHASE THE REVERSIONARY RIGHTS (AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST), THE USG WILL CONSIDER A FRENCH REQUEST TO TRANSFER MSC MARJOLAINE (AMS-66) TO THE GOT PROVIDED (A) GOT GIVES WRITTEN TRANSFER ASSURANCES TO USG, AND (B) 30-DAY CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER IS ACCOMPLISHED.
- 3. UNDER SECOND ALTERNATIVE, GOF WOULD NEED TO DECLARE THE SHIP EXCESS, SHIP WOULD REVERT TO US CONTROL AND BE REDISTRIBUTED TO TUNISIA AS MAP PROPERTY. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, FRANCE COULD NOT SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVER THE SHIP, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOVING THE SHIP FROM FRANCE TO TUNISIA WOULD REST WITH THE GOT.
- 4. WHICHEVER ALTERNATIVE GOF SELECTS, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT REF B DID NOT APPROVE LOAN REPEAT LOAN OF MAP MINESWEEPERS, BUT MERELY PROVIDED GUIDANCE ON TRANSFERS REPEAT TRANSFERS AFTER THE REVERSIONARY RIGHTS HAD BEEN PURCHASED TO THE MAP-OWNED MINESWEEPERS. KISSINGER

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